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HOUSE MEMORIAL 28

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A STATE AUTHORITY TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM
OF AUTOMOBILE THEFT IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, according to crime data from the federal bureau
of investigation, there were over nine thousand offenses of
motor vehicle theft committed in New Mexico in 2006, and the
number of motor vehicle thefts per one hundred thousand New
Mexicans is four hundred seventy-three; and

WHEREAS, automobile thieves use stolen vehicles to sell
automobile parts on the highly profitable illegal parts market
and to export automobile components and intact vehicles to
other states and countries; and

WHEREAS, stolen automobiles are also used as
instrumentalities in violent crimes, drug offenses, theft and

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1 gang activities; and

2 WHEREAS, New Mexicans are at a particular risk of
3 automobile theft because of New Mexico's proximity to the
4 international border and the state's rapidly increasing rates
5 of trafficking and using methamphetamine, which is a criminal-
6 lifestyle drug that fuels a broad range of criminal activity,
7 including automobile theft, forgery, credit card fraud,
8 identity theft, mail theft, burglary and shoplifting; and

9 WHEREAS, automobile theft is a statewide problem that
10 requires greater cooperation among the state's law enforcement
11 agencies and district attorneys, the motor vehicle insurance
12 industry, community organizations and business organizations;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, enhanced statewide coordination among law
15 enforcement agencies across the state, including the sharing of
16 information regarding automobile theft "hot spots", would
17 enhance law enforcement's ability to track automobile theft
18 rings, develop a statewide strategy for the arrest of
19 automobile theft offenders and track auto theft across state
20 lines; and

21 WHEREAS, many of New Mexico's neighboring states in the
22 southwest region have established automobile theft prevention
23 authorities for the purpose of combating, preventing and
24 investigating automobile theft, including Colorado, Arizona and
25 Texas; and

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1 WHEREAS, automobile theft prevention authorities in those
2 states use various mechanisms to combat automobile theft, such
3 as implementing community education and public awareness
4 programs as well as providing grants to law enforcement
5 agencies to improve cooperation, establish automobile theft
6 investigative units and employ specialized training;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be
9 requested to convene a task force to study the feasibility of
10 creating a state authority to combat the problem of automobile
11 theft in New Mexico; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the task
13 force include the attorney general or the attorney general's
14 designee; the secretary of public safety or the secretary's
15 designee; the director of the motor vehicle division of the
16 taxation and revenue department or the director's designee;
17 representatives of local law enforcement agencies across the
18 state, including representatives from both the metropolitan and
19 rural areas of New Mexico; a representative from the
20 administrative office of the district attorneys; and
21 representatives from the automobile insurance industry; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work of the task force
23 include the following:

24 A. a review of automobile theft prevention
25 authorities in other states that may serve as models for New

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1 Mexico;

2 B. an evaluation of the programs and initiatives of
3 automobile theft prevention authorities in other states,
4 including programs and initiatives related to community
5 education, public awareness, statewide vehicle registration,
6 specialized training for law enforcement agencies, coordinated
7 communication among law enforcement agencies and support for
8 investigative units and complex automobile theft prosecutions;
9 and

10 C. a review of cost estimates for the creation and
11 operation of an automobile theft prevention authority in New
12 Mexico; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force present a
14 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
15 recommendations for proposed legislation, to the interim
16 legislative courts, corrections and justice committee no later
17 than November 1, 2008; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the governor and the co-chairs of the interim
20 legislative courts, corrections and justice committee.